

Remarks

Claims 1-4 are pending herein. Claim 5 was previously cancelled. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the group represented by "X" in formula (1) to divalent groups of the formulae (b) or (c).

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,573,017 to Azuma ("Azuma") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,933,245 to Akasaki ("Akasaki").

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action.

I. Response to the Rejection

In the rejection, Azuma is cited for teaching the specific combination of a polyallylate binder resin (col. 19) and a hole transferring material (col. 9) used as an electrophotosensitive material. According to the Office Action, although Azuma teaches the same hole transferring material, only a similar binder resin is taught ("resin 5"). Akasaki is cited for teaching the inventive polyallylate and the equivalence of binder resins used in similar electrophotosensitive applications (col. 25). According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to use Akasaki's binder resin, with any desired substitutions, in Azuma's electrophotosensitive material, with the expectation of similar results, such as durability, because of the direct teachings of Azuma and Akasaki to the improved physical properties of similar electrophotosensitive materials used in similar applications due to the combination of binder and hole transferring materials (Azuma at cols. 5-6 and Akasaki at col. 2, lines 1-15).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 would not have been obvious over Azuma in view of Akasaki.

Claim 1 is directed to an electrophotosensitive material comprising a substrate and a photosensitive layer provided on the conductive substrate, wherein the photosensitive layer contains a polyallylate having a repeating unit represented by general formula (1) and a hole transferring material having a triphenylaminostyryl group represented by general formula (h1). Applicants' claimed electrophotosensitive material possesses improved wear and gas resistance,

while reconciling both characteristics. Thus, Applicants' electrophotosensitive material has a longer life, as shown by the results of Examples 2 and 3 in the instant specification.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to limit the group represented by "X" in formula (1) to divalent groups of the formulae (b) or (c). Neither Akasaki nor Azuma teaches or suggests a photosensitive layer containing the polyallylate recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, the references do not teach or suggest the use of the specific combination of the polyallylate and the hole transferring material set forth in amended claim 1.

The binder resin disclosed in Azuma at column 19 and identified as "Resin 5" therein differs from the polyallylate recited in amended claim 1 in that: (1) "Resin 5" does not contain the R¹ and R² substituent groups present in the polyallylate of amended claim 1, and (2) "Resin 5" contains a six-membered ring between the two phenyl groups, whereas the polyallylate recited in amended claim 1 contains a five-membered ring in such position.

Akasaki, at cols. 25-26, does not teach a polyallylate have the repeating unit represented by general formula (1) in amended claim 1.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 would not have been obvious over Azuma in view of Akasaki.

II. Conclusion


In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn and that claims 1-4 be allowed.

As stated previously, this Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time (One-Month) and a check for the sum of \$120 in payment of the corresponding extension fee.

If any additional fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 032213M026.

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Enclosures: (1) Petition for Extension of Time (One-Month)
(2) Check for the sum of \$120